



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION

CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK

- WHEREAS: Violent crimes occur each day and affect not only victims, but also the families and communities of those involved; and
- WHEREAS: Each year, thousands of Georgia citizens are the victims of violent crimes. Those affected by violent crimes may suffer emotional, physical, psychological, or financial hardships as a result of victimization; and
- WHEREAS: Victim assistance and compensation programs nationwide provide valuable services to support individuals, families, and communities in the recovery process. In 1984, Congress passed the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) and reaffirmed our nation's commitment to supporting victims of crime through the establishment of the Crime Victims Fund; and
- WHEREAS: The Crime Victims Fund provides substantial financial resources for services and compensation to victims of crime across the U.S. This fund is comprised of fines and penalties levied against offenders, thereby holding convicted persons accountable for their actions; and
- WHEREAS: National Crime Victims' Rights Week provides an opportunity to reaffirm our nation's commitment to addressing the needs of victims, as well as opportunities to raise awareness of the importance of VOCA in providing financial support for victim services; and
- WHEREAS: During Crime Victims' Rights Week, Georgia citizens are encouraged to remember those who have been affected by violent crimes, while also recognizing the efforts of individuals across the state who are dedicated to assisting victims of crime; and
- WHEREAS: The State of Georgia is proud to be home to state personnel, victim advocates, law enforcement, service providers, and brave victims who, for more than three decades, have demonstrated a commitment to helping those affected by crime regain their voice and improve self-esteem; and
- WHEREAS: Continued collaboration on the state and local level, and between public and private entities, is necessary to ensure victims are treated with dignity and compassion. The Administrative Office of the Courts, the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, the Department of Corrections, the Department of Juvenile Justice, the Department of Public Safety, the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, the Georgia Commission on Family Violence, the Governor's Office of Highway Safety, the Prosecuting Attorneys' Council, and the State Board of Pardons and Paroles work alongside victim services programs, criminal justice officials, and concerned citizens across our state and nation to observe Crime Victims' Rights Week; now
- THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim April 8-14, 2018, as CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK in Georgia and encourage Georgia citizens to reaffirm their commitment to supporting victims of crime.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 4th day of April in the year of our Lord two thousand eighteen.




GOVERNOR

ATTEST


CHIEF OF STAFF